
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2, 2007

Contact: Anne Atkins
(804) 371-0441

Veterans representative to visit Smith Mountain Lake Association

ROANOKE—Beginning July 17, 2007, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will visit the Smith Mountain Lake Association on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Association is located at 400 Scruggs Road, Suite 2100, in Moneta.

DVS Benefits Services Representative Brad Marsolek will be at Smith Mountain Lake Association to help veterans file for VA benefits. “I’m looking forward to being at the Association,” said Marsolek. “This gives me an opportunity to get out into the community and reach more veterans.”

The Department of Veterans Services has a permanent office at the Salem VA Medical Center, 1970 Roanoke Blvd., Building 12, Room 101, in Salem. However, Department staff also visit temporary sites weekly.

Benefits service representatives, like Marsolek, work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements on a local, state and federal level. These representatives help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits due to disease or injury that was incurred or aggravated by time-in-service, or disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions that are due to a service connection.

“For example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange should file a claim to obtain assistance in treating their diabetes,” explained Marsolek.

DVS representatives also assist with other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows' pensions, dependents' education, veteran home loans and death benefit claims. "Basically, we're advocates for veterans. We help them with their paperwork, we track the claim with the VA, and we represent them if they need to appeal a claim," said Marsolek.

Statewide, the Department of Veterans Services operates 22 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for federal veterans benefits. The agency operates two veterans cemeteries: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third state veterans cemetery in Dublin is in the initial stages of development. DVS operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. The VVCC is a 240-bed long-term care facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The 160-bed SitterBarfoot Veterans Care Center is under construction in Richmond and is slated to open in 2007. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.

For more information about the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, visit www.virginiaforveterans.com. To reach Marsolek at the Salem VAMC office, call (540) 982-2463, extension 3557.

###